

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed May 28, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 remain in this application, where claims 10-12 have been added, and claims 1 and 8-9 are independent.

By means of the present amendment, the drawings have been amended to delete the marking "A: s1, s4" from box 3 of FIG 3 and include it in box 4, in conformance with the specification, such as page 10, lines 2-7. A replacement sheet including FIG 3 is enclosed. Further, an annotated marked-up version of the sheet including FIG 3 is enclosed for convenience. Applicant respectfully requests approval of the enclosed proposed drawing changes.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-9 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better form including beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A',

changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--, and deleting reference designations typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Such amendments to claims 1-9 were not made in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 1 for a certain informality. In response, claim 1 has been amended to remove the noted informality. It is respectfully submitted that the objection to claim 1 has been overcome and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-2, 4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0061267 (Dunstan) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,671,441 (Glasssen). Claims 7 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Dunstan in view of Glasssen and U.S. Patent No. 7,194,689 (Manni). Further, claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Dunstan in view of Glasssen and U.S. Patent No. 6,728,633 (Mikuriya). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as

allegedly unpatentable over Dunstan in view of Glasssen and WO00/49944 (Obrink). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Dunstan in view of Manni and Glasssen. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-12 are patentable over Dunstan, Glasssen, Manni and Obrink for at least the following reasons.

Dunstan is directed to a system 100 that polls a device 100 which sends its ID information 110. The system 100 determines whether the received ID information 110 is already stored/known to system 100. The system 100 will then either control the device if the information already exists in system 100, or the system 100 will retrieve information from a manufacture web-site depending upon ID information 110.

Glasssen is directed to a method and apparatus for automatic generation of I/O configuration descriptions. In steps 37-38 of FIG 6A, a program issues START SUBCHANNEL (SSCH) specifying the programmable subchannel and providing a channel program containing read-configuration-data command to the channel subsystem. The channel subsystem initiates an I/O operation and passes the read-configuration-data command to the addressed I/O device. If the I/O

operation is successful, the channel subsystem receives a configuration-data record (CDR) from the addressed I/O device which it stores in a program-designated location in main memory. The CDR uniquely identifies the control unit that was used to receive the read-configuration-data command, and uniquely identifies the addressed I/O device. The program saves, in Step 38, the control-unit identifier in a list to be examined later.

It is respectfully submitted that Dunstan and Glasssen, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 8-9 which, amongst other patentable elements, recites (illustrative emphasis provided) :

receiving from the second device a leave message,  
in response to the leave message, changing the  
configuration description to inactive without deleting  
from the storage medium the configuration description  
corresponding to the configuration identifier.

Dunstan, Glasssen, and combination thereof do not even disclose or suggest receiving any leave message, let alone disclosing or suggesting changing the configuration description to inactive without deleting from the storage medium the configuration description corresponding to the configuration identifier. Manni

and Obrink are cited to allegedly show other features and do not remedy the deficiencies in Dunstan and Glasssen.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 8-9 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-7 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from amended independent claim 1.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

PATENT

Serial No. 10/536,847

Amendment in Reply to Office Action of May 28, 2008

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheet (1 sheet including FIG 3)  
annotated drawing sheet (1 sheet including FIG 3)

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